

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Johann WEINERT

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: December 14, 2001

For: COMPRESSIBLE POLYURETHANE LAYER AND PROCESS
FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please ADD the following new claims 8-14:

8. A compressible polyurethane layer having outer and inner surfaces on or for rotation-symmetrical bodies, characterized in that said polyurethane layer contains expanded and/or non-expanded but expandable thermoplastic hollow spheres.
9. The polyurethane layer according to claim 8, characterized in that said hollow spheres consist of an acrylate/vinylidene fluoride copolymer.

10. The polyurethane layer according to claim 8, characterized by having a thin layer of polyurethane towards the outer surface which contains non-expanded or no hollow spheres.
11. The polyurethane layer according to claim 8, characterized in that said expanded hollow spheres have diameters of from 20 to 100 μm , preferably from 30 to 50 μm .
12. The polyurethane layer according to claim 10, characterized in that said non-expanded hollow spheres have diameters of from 6 to 16 μm , preferably from 6 to 9 μm .
13. The polyurethane layer according to claim 8, characterized in that the inner surface of the polyurethane layer is in contact with a carrier made of metal or plastic.
14. A method for the preparation of a compressible polyurethane layer having outer and inner surfaces on or for rotation-symmetrical bodies according to claim 8, characterized in that a freshly prepared mixture of diisocyanate and polyol or polyamine is applied by rotational casting to a roller-shaped carrier, one or both of the two components containing said expanded and optionally the non-expanded hollow spheres, followed, if desired, by withdrawing the polyurethane layer from the carrier and, if desired, by cutting it open.

REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Atty. Docket: P66531US1
Date: December 14, 2001
WEP:jrc